



Iron County School District **CREATES** More **COMPUTER SCIENCE** Opportunities for Students

After receiving a Computing Partnership grant through the STEM Action Center to fund more computer science opportunities, Iron County School District kicked things off with a Cool 2 Code event on November 6, 2017. At the event, district teachers and community leaders were able to see what programming will be available for their students over the next few years.

The overall goal for Iron County School District is to more fully engage students in computer science. Currently they offer a few computer science classes in their high schools, but student engagement is low. The goal of the grant is to take their current computing pathway and strengthen it by offering more for elementary and middle school students to engage in computer science.

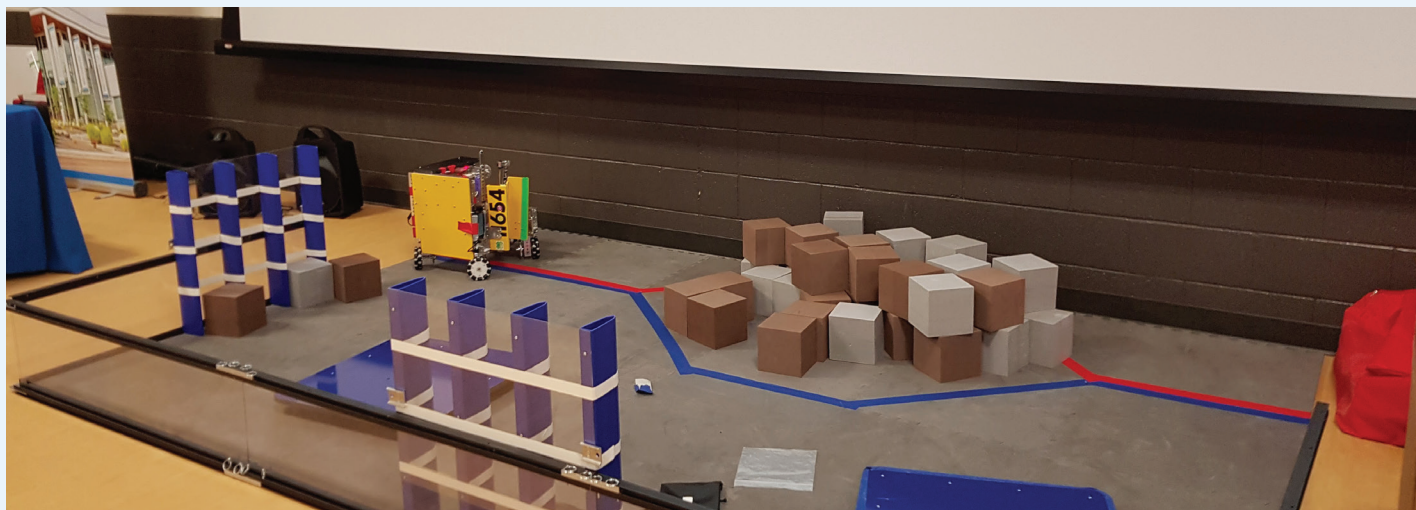
"We have all these opportunities for the students

and we don't have the students to fill the classes," said Cory Henwood, digital teaching and learning specialist for Iron County School District. "Getting students interested earlier will hopefully lead to more students staying engaged later on in high school and through college."

Iron County is partnering with Southern Utah University, CodeChangers, First Lego League, First Tech Challenge, Tech Up and Southwest Technical College to create more opportunities.

Southern Utah University (SUU) will provide various opportunities including the Flocks to Fly Program, which supports teachers who want to use robots in the classroom.

SUU will also offer other robotics classes, and promote career opportunities through events like



On November 6, 2017, Iron County School District educators saw first hand what new computer science opportunities their students will get to interact with over the next few years, including FIRST Robotics.

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SheTech and Southern Utah Aspirations.

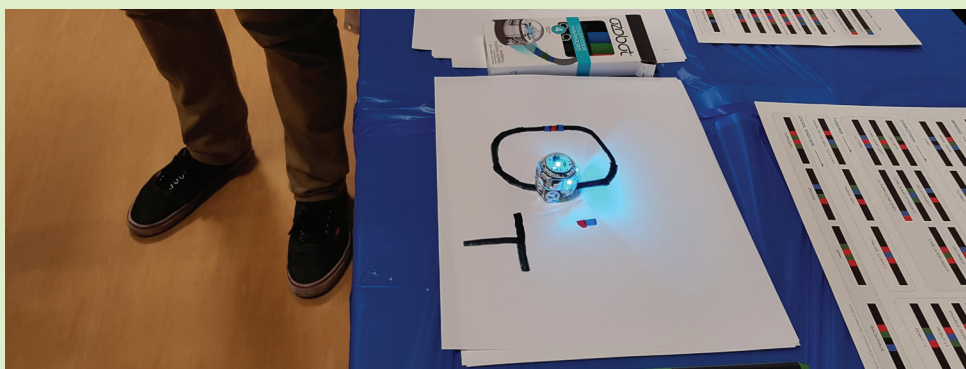
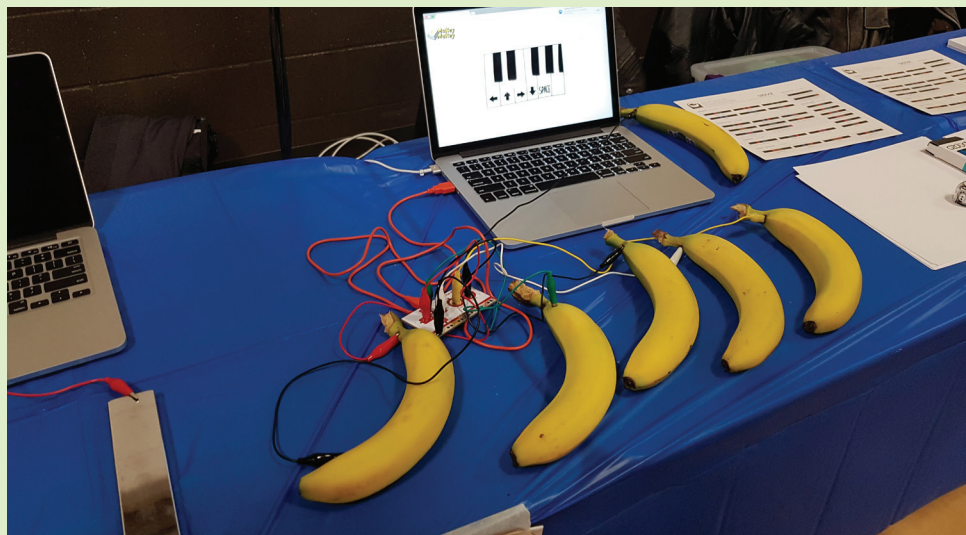
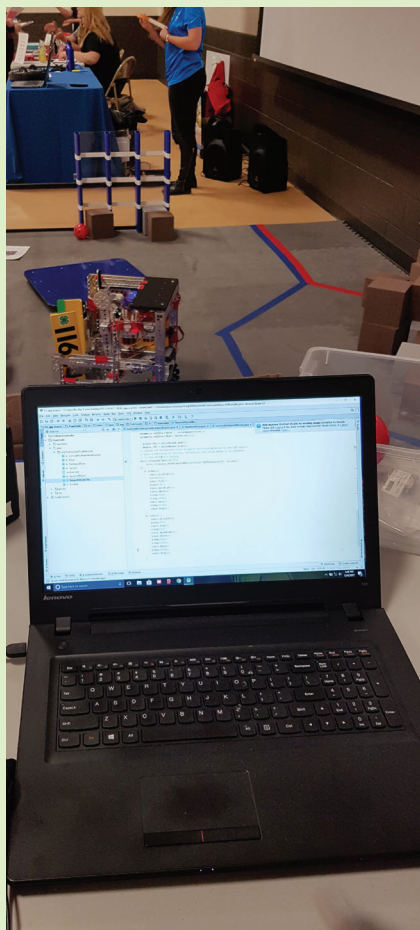
SouthWest Technology College will provide support for high school students that are enrolled in their classes for CS Certifications in Information Technology, Computer Programming and Web Development. Funds from the grant will go to help pay for some of these certifications for students.

CodeChangers will help launch afterschool programs at all elementary schools, and provide summer camps for students. They will provide online curriculum for students that wish to work or learn at home and teachers that wish to start including lessons in their classes now. They will also provide professional development for teachers, so teachers can take over management of these afterschool programs when the grant is finished. CodeChangers will also visit classrooms to teach classes and give demonstrations to build excitement and engagement in the afterschool programs.

Tech-Up will help provide outreach opportunities and give Iron County a voice in the local tech community. Tech-Up will also provide mentoring experiences and help connect classrooms with industry.

One area of emphasis will be to provide Keyboarding for Kids software for all students in the district. Keyboarding for Kids was chosen because it teaches touch-typing with little teacher intervention. Lessons and practices are 15 seconds long and can be added in throughout the school day. Students will also have access to the software at home. The program is customized for each student and students are able to set goals and work to become proficient, without comparing to how other children are doing.

"We have a good pathway, but we are working to widen the funnel of students and strengthen the pathway to a career," Henwood said. "These additional opportunities will do just that."



Educators had the opportunity to interact with new computer science programs that their students will experience over the next few years, including Makey Makey, Ozobots, FIRST Robotics and other hands-on experiences.



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